

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5640
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
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E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, JO, LY, XF
SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO LIBYA

1. ARMY CHIEF GENERAL BIN SHAKER TOLD US THAT PRIME MINISTER BADRAN'S VISIT TO LIBYA, ANNOUNCED APRIL 2 TO BEGIN APRIL 4, WILL FOCUS HEAVILY ON PROCURING LIBYAN AID FOR JORDANIAN MILITARY NEEDS. THIS FITS IN WITH KING'S CURRENT AND GROWING CONCERN ABOUT HIS MILITARY POSITION WHICH IN RELATIVE TERMS TO ALL HIS NEIGHBORS GROWS WEAKER.

2. BIN SHAKER WILL DISCUSS WITH PRIME MINISTER TODAY JORDANIAN NEEDS. HE SAYS PRIME MINISTER'S FIRST PRIORITY WILL BE TO OBTAIN RESUMPTION OF LIBYAN KHARTOUM SUBSIDIES TO JORDAN (ABOUT \$30-40 MILLION PER YEAR) TERMINATED IN 1970 AS A RESULT OF JORDANIAN ARMY CAMPAIGN AGAINST PLO. BADRAN WILL ALSO TRY TO GET LIBYANS TO PAY BACK SUBSIDIES FOR PAST YEARS. IN ADDITION, BIN SHAKER WILL GIVE BADRAN A LIST OF HIGH PRIORITY MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROJECTS. THESE INCLUDE FUNDS FOR AN ARMORED REBUILD FACILITY, C-130 AIR-

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CARFT, SIKORSKY TRANSPORT HELICOPTERS AND COBRA OBSERVATION AND ANTI-TANK HELICOPTERS. IN ADDITION, THE LIST WILL INCLUDE ARTILLERY NEEDS AND SOME AIR FORCE RADAR.

3. BIN SHAKER SAID IDEAL WOULD BE TO GET RESUMPTION OF SUBSIDIES, ALL BACK PAYMENTS, AND COMMITMENT FOR

ONE OR TWO IMPORTANT MILITARY AID PROJECTS. HE SAYS
REALISTICALLY THIS IS MOST UNLIKELY.

4. HE SAID BADRAN IS PREPARED TO RESIST LIBYAN
POLITICAL CONDITIONS FOR JORDAN--SUCH AS JOINING STEADFASTNESS
FRONT OR SWITCHING ITS POSITIVE ATTITUDE ON PEACE NEGOTIATIONS
BASED ON 242. BIN SHAKER SAID THEY HAVE CONSIDERED THE
POSSIBILITY LIBYANS MAY OFFER SOME RUSSIAN TANKS
FROM ITS INVENTORY IN LIEU OF SUPPORT FOR TANK
REBUILD FACILITY. BADRAN IS APPARENTLY BRIEFED TO
TURN THIS DOWN, INSISTING THAT JORDAN DOES NOT WANT
TO RETRAIN ITS TROOPS, THAT ITS PRESENT TANKS ARE ADEQUATE
BUT NEED UPGRADING, AND THAT ITS SPARE PARTS AND
MECHANICS ARE ALL SET FOR CENTURION AND U.S. MODELS.
IN THE LONG RUN BIN SHAKER SAYS WHAT BADRAN ACHIEVES
WILL BE BASED ON WHAT KING OF PERSONAL RAPPORT HE
CAN ESTABLISH WITH MERCURIAL AND UNPREDICTABLE
QADDHAFI.

5. COMMENT: IT IS DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE GOJ MAKING
SUFFICIENT POLITICAL CONCESSIONS TO LIBYA TO JUSTIFY
SIGNIFICANT LIBYAN OFFERS OF FINANCIAL OR MILITARY
ASSISTANCE. JORDAN DOES HOWEVER SEEM TO BE USING
CURRENT LULL IN PEACE NEGOTIATIONS TO IMPROVE RELA-
TIONS WITH LIBYA, ALGERIA AND EVEN IRAQ. WE
BELIEVE THIS IS MOTIVATED BY KING'S DESIRE TO OPEN
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LINE OF COMMUNICATION TO RADICALS IN PROMOTING AN
ARAB SUMMIT AND TO PROTECT JORDAN AGAINST ATTACKS
BY RADICAL ARABS IN CASE SADAT INITIATIVE FAILS.
FINALLY, RECENT MOVES PROBABLY INTENDED TO EXERT SOME
PRESSURE ON U.S. AND SAUDI ARABIA IN ORDER TO
INDUCE US TO INCREASE WHAT JORDAN MAY JUDGE TO BE
INADEQUATE U.S. AND SAUDI FINANCIAL AND MILITARY
ASSISTANCE SUPPORT. WE ALSO DO NOT RULE OUT JORDAN
POSSIBLY EVEN GETTING SOME, IF NOT MUCH, LIBYAN
ASSISTANCE ON CURRENT TRIP.
PICKERING

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NNN

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